

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

WADA et al. Atty. Docket No. 103203-00010

Serial No.: To Be Assigned Examiner: To Be Assigned

Filed: Herewith Art Unit: To Be Assigned

For: ELECTRIC FURNACE EXTENSION METHOD AND EXTENSION APPARATUS FOR OPTICAL FIBER GLASS PREFORM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Director of the U.S. PTO
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: February 27, 2004

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the information item(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each item(s) is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the item(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application, OR (c) accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. No certification or fee is required.
- 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
- a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

c. A check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

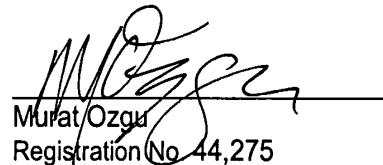
3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the petition fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).

b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

4. The references were cited by or submitted to the Office in parent application No. 09/778,107, filed February 7, 2001 and grand parent application No. 09/047,373, filed March 25, 1998, which are relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these references are not attached. 37 CFR § 1.98(d).

Respectfully submitted,



Murat Ozgu
Registration No. 44,275

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000
Fax: (202) 638-4810

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Enclosure: PTO Form 1449
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FORM PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 103203-00010	Divisional of 09/778,107
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT		APPLICANT WADA et al.	
(Use several sheets if necessary)		FILING DATE Herewith	GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA	5,013,345	05/1991	ITOH			
	AB	3,249,414	05/1996	HAMILTON			
	AC	4,631,079	12/1986	CLARK			
	AD	5,030,265	07/1991	SUZUKI			
	AE	4,407,667	10/1983	LENOANE			
	AF						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO PART.
	AG	8-59274	03/05/96	JAPAN			
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
	AL						

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AM	
	AN	
	AO	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.